



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 October 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Boston Globe reports five DHS undercover agents, posing as passengers, last week carried weapons through several security checkpoints at Logan International Airport without being detected. (See item [9](#))
- The Sierra Vista Herald reports water was shut off in Willcox, AZ, after an employee discovered padlocks missing or opened in the city's water system on Tuesday morning. (See item [21](#))
- The Associated Press reports there is a growing militant movement opposed to genetic engineering in agriculture and medicine that is turning increasingly to sabotage in the U.S. and Europe. (See item [22](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *October 16, Christian Science Monitor* — **Microbes make uranium inert.** From the problem of nuclear pollution, to the demand for new energy sources, a family of tiny iron-breathing critters discovered by Derek Lovley, professor of microbiology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, is redefining what scientists have believed possible in all these areas. **If the U.S. today were to try to clean all its nuclear sites where uranium now poisons the**

groundwater, Lovley says, the cost would bankrupt the country. His team has an **alternative**, successfully tested at a uranium mine in Colorado the past two summers. **By pumping a favorite food of the geobacteraceae bacteria — acetate, or vinegar — into the ground, they caused a native population of the bacteria to expand.** As the microbes ran out of iron to breathe, they latched onto uranium instead. Breathing the mineral, the bacteria added two electrons to it, changing it to a form that does not dissolve in water. **The insoluble uranium fell out of the water supply about 30 feet underground, rendering the toxic, radioactive material inert and basically harmless.**

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1016/p16s01-sten.html>

2. *October 16, Reuters* — **Blackout hits Argentina. Buenos Aires was hit by a brief blackout on Thursday, October 16, that affected some of the most densely populated areas of the capital, one day after electricity companies warned of possible outages unless they were allowed to raise rates. Power was restored after about half an hour.** A spokesperson for Edesur, one of two main electricity firms operating in the Argentine city, told local television it had not yet determined the cause of the outage. The outage temporarily knocked out street lights, causing traffic delays. **Service at some banks in the financial district was also temporarily halted,** according to local media reports. Blackouts have become more frequent in the country since a chaotic currency devaluation in January 2002, which cut companies' earnings in dollar terms by around 65 percent and impaired their ability to make investments.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rf/031016/energy_argentina_1.html

3. *October 15, Associated Press* — **Counties mull pact for Yucca waste routes in Nevada.** Three rural Nevada counties and the city of Caliente are considering forming a new regional agency to coordinate transportation of nuclear waste to the planned Yucca Mountain repository. **A copy of the unsigned, draft agreement for the "Regional Transportation Cooperative Authority," calls for forging a pact between Nye, Lincoln and Esmeralda counties and Caliente to receive federal or state funding to "develop information, formulate proposals, recommend plans, (and) adopt policies regarding transportation corridors."** Allen Benson, a spokesperson for the Energy Department's Office of Repository Development, fielded questions for the department's civilian radioactive waste chief, Margaret Chu, saying, "Our view has always been that local governments should work cooperatively. If they can come forward with a concept that we believe would be helpful, we would consider funding it," Benson said.
Source: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2003/oct/15 /101510059.html>

4. *October 15, Reuters* — **Connecticut nuclear cooling system up after brief glitch. The cooling system at Dominion's 871 megawatt Millstone 2 nuclear unit in Connecticut heated up 12 degrees F when it lost power for about 10 minutes on Tuesday, October 14,** the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in an event report issued on Wednesday, October 15. **The power loss occurred when Dominion was attempting to swap power supplies from one piece of transmission equipment to another. When the event occurred the unit was shut because of a refueling operation.** Because of the incident, the company declared an "unusual event." The company is required to report an unusual event to the NRC when the temperature in the reactor cooling system rises more than 10 degrees. It said the reactor coolant system temperature rose from 101 degrees to 113 degrees. An unusual event is the lowest of four levels of emergency classification used by the NRC. The event was

canceled later that morning after the power supply was restored. The Millstone station is about 3 miles to the west-southwest of New London, CT.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/business/energy/newswire/2003/10/15/rt r1109655.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *October 16, Financial Times* — **U.S. calls NATO meeting on EU defense. The U.S. has called an emergency NATO meeting to challenge the creation of a stronger security and defense policy for the European Union (EU). The call by Nicholas Burns, U.S. ambassador to NATO, reflects growing unease among Pentagon officials over the way Britain wants to work more closely with its EU allies in building credible defense structures and better military capabilities.** But it also highlights tensions in the transatlantic alliance, with the U.S. seeing any future EU defense policy as a potential competitor to NATO. The U.S. move came as EU leaders met last night to discuss how to make European defense more effective in any new constitutional treaty. The draft treaty is being negotiated in the intergovernmental conference that includes the 15 current member and 10 candidate states that join next year. British, French and German officials on Thursday, October 16, said it was too early to make any decisions over defense issues. "This is only the beginning. We need a more coherent defense policy that will complement NATO," said one British official.

Source: <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1059480651516&p=1012571727102>

6. *October 16, Federal Computer Week* — **Defense plans smaller, cheaper satellites. The Defense Department (DoD) plans to launch a small, relatively cheap, experimental tactical satellite capable of supporting specific missions early next year.** The move marks a decided shift from the decades-old process of buying large satellite systems that will serve multiple purposes and last for years or decades. Instead, military officials expect TacSat-1 will proceed from the official go-ahead to launch in about nine months for a total cost of only \$15 million. Retired Navy Vice Admiral Arthur Cebrowski, DoD's director of force transformation, announced the program this week as the way forward for the military's development of on-demand space assets. The project will be a combined experiment among the Navy, Air Force and private industry. **TacSat-1 will be a sensor satellite, not used specifically for imagery or voice and data communications. It will, however, use an infrared camera and new thermal imaging technology,** according to information from the Office of Force Transformation. The system will have a Secret Internet Protocol Router Network address, so battlefield commanders could potentially access the satellite's sensor data through DoD's classified network.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1013/web-dod-10-16-03.a.sp>

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *October 16, Toronto Star (Canada)* — **Canada: \$1 million in counterfeit bills seized.** More than \$1 million in counterfeit Canadian \$20 bills has been seized and one person arrested, Toronto police said on Thursday, October 16. **Upon receiving a tip, detectives discovered the currency stored in a Toronto apartment building. Investigators believe the suspect was responsible for manufacturing and distributing the counterfeit money in the Toronto area.** Along with phony bills, police seized copy paper and color testing codes. Charged with making and possessing counterfeit money is Thomas Yu of North York.
Source: http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thesar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1066302105006&call_pa_geid=968332188492&col=968705899037
8. *October 15, Government Accounting Office* — **Report–GAO–04–12: Social Security Administration: Actions Taken to Strengthen Procedures for Issuing Social Security Numbers to Noncitizens, but Some Weaknesses Remain.** Despite its narrowly intended purpose, the Social Security Number (SSN) has in practice become the national identifier. **SSNs are key pieces of information in creating false identities, underscoring the importance of issuing SSNs only to those eligible for them and of protecting those already assigned to individuals.** The House of Representatives Subcommittee on Social Security, Committee on Ways and Means, asked GAO to describe and assess SSA's key initiatives to ensure the appropriate issuance of SSNs to noncitizens and identify vulnerabilities to error or fraud SSA has not yet addressed. **GAO recommends that SSA strengthen the integrity of its enumeration policies and procedures by taking actions such as reviewing field compliance with verification requirements for enumerating noncitizens.** In its response to GAO's draft report, SSA agreed with GAO's recommendations and provided information on planned and current actions to address them. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0412high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-12>

Transportation Sector

9. *October 16, Boston Globe* — **Logan screeners fail weapons tests. Five undercover agents of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posing as passengers last week carried weapons through several security checkpoints at Logan International Airport in Boston, MA, without being detected,** officials confirmed Wednesday. George Naccara, federal security director at Logan Airport, said that certain "prohibited items" were carried past the federal screeners hired to improve airport security after September 11, 2001. **The tests at Logan were part of a federal probe at about 15 major airports.** The results are expected to be presented to Congress some time in the next several months. **Massachusetts Port Authority officials, who own the airport but have no responsibility for security, said the undercover sting will help the airport improve security.** "By testing airports across the country, the federal government can identify potential weaknesses and improve screening methods and

training," said Massport spokesman Jose Juves.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2003/10/16/logan_s_greeners_fail_weapons_tests/

10. *October 16, Associated Press* — **NTSB investigates ferry crash. The National Transportation Safety Board officials are investigating whether a Staten Island ferry pilot lost consciousness during a routine trip across a windy New York Harbor before the mighty vessel slammed into a pier, killing 10 people and injuring at least 42 others, including three who lost limbs.** The pilot bolted the scene so quickly that he left behind his gear and his keys, then broke into his house where he slit his wrists and shot himself with a pellet gun, a law enforcement source told the Associated Press. The pilot, identified by the source as Richard Smith, was in critical condition after surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday night. It was the same hospital where 22 victims, including at least one amputee, were rushed after the 3:20 p.m. crash, the city's worst mass transit accident in at least a generation. **The 300-foot craft was carrying an estimated 1,500 people, 36 of whom were treated at the scene or were immediately taken to hospitals.** Six others walked away injured and went to hospitals later

Source: http://www.wusatv9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=23665

11. *October 16, CNN* — **Driver crashes through San Diego airport fence. A man drove a car through a double security fence at San Diego International Airport–Lindbergh Field Wednesday, then jumped out of the moving vehicle before it crossed an active runway and crashed into another fence, airport officials said. The man was captured without incident moments later by Marines stationed as guards at the nearby U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Depot.** The suspect was identified as Omar Ceballos, 23, of Imperial Beach, CA. He faces local charges of vandalism, driving while under the influence of a controlled substance, hit and run, and unauthorized entry to an air field. **Officials have not determined his motivation.** Airport Authority spokesperson Diana Lucero said the investigation into the security breach will continue. She said no one was endangered by the incident, and no planes taking off or landing had to be diverted. **Lucero said the airport followed procedures after the breach, and a canine unit checked the car to make sure there were no explosives in it. No weapons or explosives were found.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/West/10/16/airport.breach/index.html>

12. *October 16, Reuters* — **Lawmakers cite continuing gaps in air security. James Loy, the administrator of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), said Thursday the potential threat to airliners posed by passengers will remain the focus of U.S. aviation security for the foreseeable future as key lawmakers noted that weapons and explosives can still be smuggled onto planes.** Loy told a congressional hearing the nation's aviation security system is "more secure than it ever has been" but that "we still have a long way to go." Loy said the security priority remains the potential threat posed by passengers now tops the possibility that attackers might use shoulder-fired missiles to down a commercial airliner. **"What we are seeing go by at the moment is that the terrorist may be more likely to get on the plane,"** Loy said of intelligence data. Loy was not more specific on the intelligence, but added there are no immediate threats that a U.S. airliner might be targeted from the ground at home. Still, some members of Congress are pushing him to expedite research on outfitting aircraft with anti-missile systems. But senior members of the House of

Representatives aviation subcommittee pressed Loy on the overhaul of airport passenger and baggage screening and a recent congressional investigation on those operations that turned up startling security gaps.

Source: http://wireservice.wired.com/wired/story.asp?section=Breaking&storyId=791059&tw=wn_wire_story

13. *October 16, Sacramento Business Journal* — **Amtrak ridership rises nationwide.** Ridership on Amtrak trains increased 2.7 percent to 24 million passengers in the fiscal year ended September 30, the highest level in the 32-year-old rail system's history. **Amtrak officials credited efforts to bring the system back to basics, including fare rollbacks and simplification, easier connections with commuter rail in some markets — including Metrolink in Southern California, where ridership on the Pacific Surfliner trains rose 26.3 percent — and schedule and route changes.** The Pacific Surfliner increase was a standout amid an 11.7 percent increase in short-distance routes in the West. In the East, ridership on such routes was down 1.6 percent. **While Amtrak said all routes saw some of the effects of the lagging economy in the travel industry and the Iraq war, weather fell more heavily on the East, with service disruption from Hurricane Isabel and the Presidents' Day blizzard.** The blackout that hit the Northeast and Midwest also hurt Amtrak.

Source: <http://sacramento.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2003/10/13/daily28.html>

14. *October 16, News 9 San Antonio* — **Security improvements coming to buses.** The security at bus stations is looking more and more like airport security. At first glance, lane four at the Greyhound Bus Station in downtown San Antonio strongly resembles a line one might see at the airport. **Passengers must endure the same kind of screening they would go through before stepping onto a plane.** On average, Americans take more than 700 million bus trips a year. That's five times more than Amtrak and the airlines combined. In the ongoing fight against terrorism, the federal government agreed to fund a variety of security upgrades for bus travel. Despite the popularity of bus travel, national and regional bus lines did not automatically get federal funding to fight terrorism. **The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agreed to award Greyhound Lines, the nation's largest provider for bus travel, \$9 million for security upgrades.** "There is only so much that we — and other companies — can do without federal support for security funding. With the grants funding made available by the Congress and the TSA, Greyhound will be able to expand and accelerate our security activities," the company said in a statement after it received the funding.

Source: http://news9sanantonio.com/content/top_stories/default.asp?ArticleID=5836

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *October 16, The Straits Times (Singapore)* — **Terrorists may be preparing sea strikes.** Terrorists may be targeting ships and busy ports next, a London-based defense consultancy has warned. **Suicide bombers might attack ships, or terrorists may hijack vessels to crash into oil tankers near ports, according to a recent report by Aegis Defense Services. It says that militants in Southeast Asia have abducted shipping crew members to learn how to pilot ships and other possible targets are United States navy vessels.** Singapore's Defense Minister Teo Chee Hean highlighted the need for stepped-up maritime security efforts in a

speech on Monday, October 13. He said it was known that terrorists had been studying maritime targets across the region, and the challenge of securing ships and ports against attacks was "enormous." **The report points to troubling signs, such as Abu Sayyaf rebels demanding lessons from a kidnapped diving instructor, and reports from the owner of a diving school in Kuala Lumpur, who was approached by a group of men who wanted to learn about underwater maneuvers. The strange thing about them was that they were uninterested in learning the vital skill of decompression when resurfacing. The Aegis report speculates that the Malacca Strait, one of the busiest shipping lanes, might be a target.**

Source: <http://www.straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/world/story/0.4386.2148.79.00.html?>

16. *October 16, DM News* — **USPS may build irradiation facility in DC. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) wants to build a postal-owned mail-irradiation facility in the Washington, DC, area that would irradiate and sanitize mail delivered to government offices in the 202 to 205 ZIP codes, the USPS said Wednesday.** The preferred site is on USPS property at the Curseen-Morris Processing and Distribution Center. The agency plans to publish a Notice of Intent next week to begin an environmental assessment to determine the feasibility of the facility. Immediately after the anthrax attacks in October 2001, mail service to government offices within Washington, DC, was halted until measures could be taken to ensure the safety of the mail. The USPS contracted to have government mail irradiated at contractor facilities in Ohio and New Jersey. **The irradiation of government mail continues today at contractor facilities in New Jersey. Construction of a local facility would minimize logistics and security requirements now needed in transporting government mail to the New Jersey facility and let the USPS better maintain custody and control of the mail, the agency said.**

Source: http://www.dmnews.com/cgi-bin/artprevbot.cgi?article_id=25306

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Agriculture Sector

17. *October 16, Kansas Ag Connection* — **Developing new genetic resources in wheat. The National Science Foundation has awarded North Dakota State University (NDSU) a \$1.8 million grant to develop new genetic resources in wheat.** NDSU is the lead institution for the project. Other universities involved are Oregon State University, the University of California-Davis, the University of Arizona, and Kansas State University. The lead researcher at NDSU is Shahryar Kianian, associate professor in the Department of Plant Sciences. **"Essentially, what we're doing is 'knocking out' genes in a plant," Kianian says. "Then we'll look to see what happens to the plant.** For example, we will be able to tell if a particular gene or set of genes make the plant grow taller, shorter, or is able to better tolerate drought." For the project, Kianian and a group of colleagues from across the U.S. will generate about 40,000 mutated lines.

Source: <http://www.kansasagconnection.com/story-state.cfm?Id=38&yr=2003>

18. *October 16, Agriculture Online* — **Extensive British GM crop trials show impact on wildlife.** British researchers have released the results of the most extensive studies to date on the environmental impact of growing genetically modified (GM) crops. The scientists did a

three-year test at sites across the UK. They looked at three biotech crops grown using their respective alternative management practices and found production of two of the crops, oilseed rape and sugar beet, was more harmful to wildlife than growing their conventional counterparts. Production of the third, corn, actually was found to have a beneficial impact on other plants and animals compared with production of the conventional hybrid. As measures of the impact on wildlife, the studies used butterfly and bee activity, and the presence of weeds and weed seeds, which provide food for birds. **The researchers stressed the differences arose because the GM crops gave farmers new options for weed control, not because of the way the crops themselves were altered.** The full reports can be found at:

http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/phil_bio/news/fse_toc.html.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe tail_ANewsindex_html_50743_1

19. *October 15, Agriculture Online* — **New test could lead to healthier herds. A Canadian cancer-research company has created a new immunology test that can identify the natural resistance of breeding stock to disease. Developing such resistance in a lineage could lead to lower levels of antibiotics in meat products and healthier herds, they say.** The blood test could apply to all mammals, though it has been tested only in humans and swine so far. In-house trials have shown the test to be effective. The first real-life commercial application, which tested the effect of an animal nutraceutical feed ingredient from ImmuDyne Canada, has now confirmed this. **Besides genetic selection and breeding, producers could benefit from establishing an immunity profile of their animals to better manage herds. This should result in a significant increase of productivity and net profits, the company says, since tabulating each animal's immune level would mean producers could market animals more prone to diseases early.** High immune capacity animals could be an alternative to using antibiotics to reduce disease. This could become increasingly important as the European community's progressive ban on antibiotics in meats will lead to a total ban by 2007. Source: http://www.agriculture.com/default.sph/AgNews.class?FNC=goDe tail_AFullstory_html_50736

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Food Sector

20. *October 16, OsterDowJones Commodity News* — **COOL labeling costs. The mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) law may end up costing the U.S. food industry, including producers, processors, and retailers, up to \$3.9 billion for the first year of compliance after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) implements the legislation in September 2004, a USDA official said. That figure includes \$500–\$600 million solely for record-keeping costs, a substantial decrease from an earlier \$2 billion estimate, according to the official.** The estimates are the key figures in an "economic impact assessment" performed by USDA to accompany new regulations it has written to implement the COOL law, which was approved by Congress as part of the 2002 Farm Bill. USDA officials said that work on the new regulations has been finished and that a "proposed rule" containing them has been sent to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. OMB will have 90 days to review the regulations in the proposed rule once it registers the USDA's submission. Still, the process, including collecting and responding to public feedback, will take several months and

the USDA will likely not be able to publish a "final rule" on the new country-of-origin labels until February 2004, at the earliest, one USDA official said.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=21826

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Water Sector

21. *October 15, Sierra Vista Herald* — **Water shut off after contamination suspected. Water was shut off in Willcox, AZ, Tuesday morning after a city employee on a routine daily check discovered padlocks missing or opened in the city's water system, officials said.** A variety of public address systems, police officers driving the streets with bull horns, local radio stations, and the Arizona Range News Website, are being used to inform city residents that the city experienced an "unauthorized entry" to its Municipal Water System, said Jake Weaver, Willcox police chief. The water system had been previously checked at 7:30 a.m. Monday," he said. It was further noticed that a padlock was removed from a hatch on top of water tank. Weaver said this padlock was not damaged, but appeared to be picked or opened without force. **Cochise County Health Department Epidemiologist Gary Spivey said Tuesday afternoon that turning off the water supply and running tests to check for possible contaminants were precautionary measures. Water was turned back on Tuesday at 7 p.m.**

Source: <http://www.svherald.com/articles/2003/10/15/news/news4.txt>

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Public Health Sector

22. *October 14, Associated Press* — **Violent protests erupting over biotechnology. A growing militant movement opposed to genetic engineering in agriculture and medicine is turning to sabotage. The FBI says the violence has become more serious.** A range of militant environmental, economic, and animal-rights groups have used the Internet to organize around biotechnology. **Anti-biotech attacks this year include the trashing of a biology lab at Louisiana State University. In France, an estimated half of the 100 plots of biotech crops were destroyed this year. Genetically modified crops in the UK are also in danger due to sabotage. Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, an animal rights group, has waged a harassment campaign to shut down the Lawrenceville, NJ, laboratory of Huntingdon Life Sciences, a company that tests drugs and chemicals on animals for biotech firms.** There is evidence that these campaigns are having an effect on companies. Deloitte & Touche severed its ties with Huntingdon earlier this year because of harassment of its employees. Huntingdon itself moved its headquarters from the UK to Maryland last year because of increasing violence against it. In Britain, Bayer CropSciences said it no longer will plant experimental plots of genetically engineered crops because the government has declined to keep the locations confidential.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/news/archive/2003/10/14/national1718EDT0730.DTL>

23.

October 14, Reuters — **Expert warns UK could not cope with epidemics.** The United Kingdom has closed so many isolation hospitals it could not cope with a major epidemic, according to an expert in public health. Philip Mortimer, from the Health Protection Agency Central Public Health Laboratory, said the hospitals were pulled down or re-designated during the 1970s when infectious disease was thought to have been defeated in developed countries. "As a result, **a situation has come about in the UK where hospital accommodation is insufficient to cope with epidemic disease,**" he said. Mortimer said it might never again be possible to maintain large isolation wards, let alone entire isolation hospitals, just in case of epidemics. "But **the present quantitative mismatch between the accommodation that even a moderate outbreak of a serious emergent infection might require and what is available needs to be reviewed. This applies both to defense against natural epidemics and possible bioterrorist attack,**" he said. Healthcare systems are particularly vulnerable to influenza pandemics. Even in "quiet" influenza years, UK hospitals found it hard to cope with the sudden rush of emergency admissions. The effects of a shifted influenza A strain might well prove "wholly unmanageable," Mortimer warns.

Source: <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=3610805§ion=news>

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Government Sector

24. *October 16, U.S. Newswire* — **Ocala, Florida will host national meeting on homeland security, immigration, interoperability.** Ocala Councilmember Mary S. Rich will host The National League of Cities' (NLC) Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee October 17 to 18. The Committee develops policy positions on vital issues such as homeland security, the need for better public safety communications through interoperability, and the relationship between the federal government and local law enforcement regarding homeland security. **The committee will discuss the need for better public safety communication through the use of interoperability to ensure that police, fire, EMT and local officials can communicate easily in times of crisis, as well as homeland security, and immigration's relationship to local law enforcement.** The committee will also hear from representatives of Florida's Congressional delegation on the policy discussion items. This meeting will be the basis of recommendations and resolutions to be voted on in December in Nashville at the NLC Congress of Cities meeting. **Once approved, the policy positions will serve as a guide for NLC lobbying and advocacy efforts for 2004.**

Source: http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=122-1016200_3

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

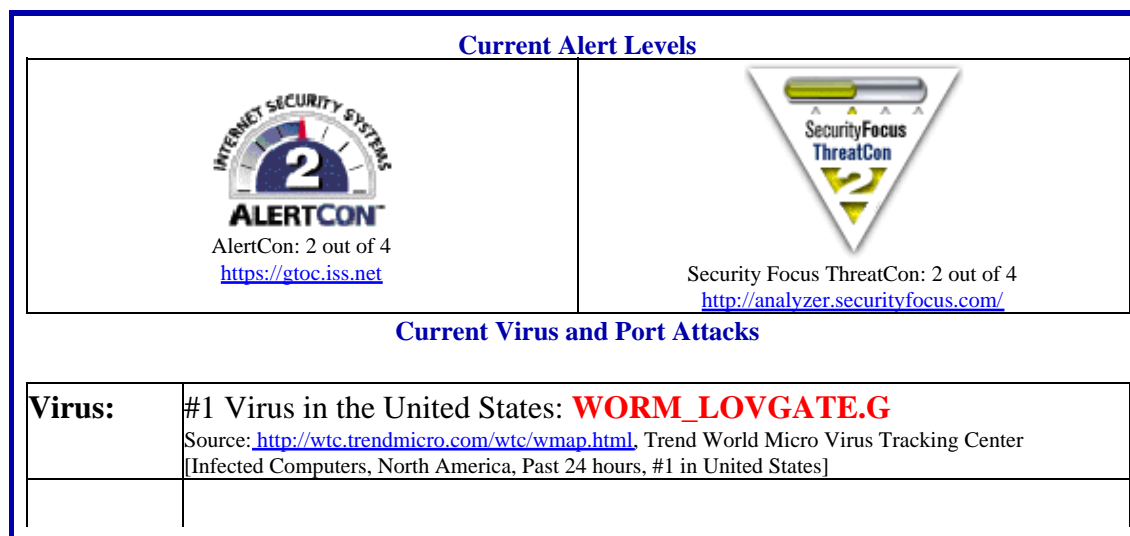
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Information and Telecommunications Sector

25. *October 16, Associated Press* — **FCC adopts wireless technology rules. Regulators adopted rules Thursday, October 16, to promote the development of a new wireless technology that can send large amounts of information between buildings without the need to dig up streets to lay cables.** That technology, which is still under development, is the wireless equivalent of fiber-optic cables, using broadcast in narrow beams that avoid interference problems, said John Muleta, chief of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) wireless bureau. **The technology would operate in a large section of airwaves originally set aside for government use.** Recent advances have made consumer uses possible. "The highly advanced technology used here may encourage a broad range of new products and services," FCC Chairman Michael Powell said. He said companies may eventually use this technology to compete with high-speed Internet services such as cable modems and broadband over phone lines. **The FCC plans to issue nationwide licenses to companies seeking to deploy the new service.** The FCC also adopted licensing and technical rules to promote the next generation of cell phones and wireless devices that provide faster Internet access and transmit video.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35804-2003Oct 16.html>

26. *October 14, vnunet.com* — **Instant messaging falls prey to hackers.** Hackers are exploiting browser security flaws to hijack instant messaging (IM) accounts, security experts have warned. Internet security firm Symantec said **vulnerabilites have meant that attacks on IM and peer-to-peer sites have risen 400 per cent since 2002.** Using what are known as application programming interfaces (a set of routines, protocols, and tools for building software applications), **hackers have developed worms or Trojans that can capture a remote user's list of IM correspondents, or 'buddies'.** By grabbing a user's buddy list rather than scanning for vulnerable IP addresses, these worms have the potential to be more virulent than predecessors like Code Red, Slammer or Blaster, which spread over the internet rather than over IM networks, warned Neal Hindocha of Symantec. Usually the victim is led to a website, either by a distributing link through IM or via an email with a link to the Webpage, which then automatically downloads a worm or trojan.
Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/News/1144318>

Internet Alert Dashboard



Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 80 (www), 17300 (Kuang2TheVirus), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 27374 (SubSeven) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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General Sector

27. *October 16, New York Times* — **At least 30 in U.S. are suspected of selling Iraq arms before war. American officials in Baghdad have identified at least 30 businesses and individuals in the U.S. that are suspected of selling tens of millions of dollars in military technology to Iraq before the war.** Among the suspects are Sabri Yakou, 69, a permanent resident of the United States born in Iraq, and his son, Regard Yakou, 43, an American citizen, both of San Diego, CA. They were charged Wednesday, October 15, with delivering and helping to assemble three 85-foot-long patrol boats armed with machine guns to Saddam Hussein's military as part of an \$11 million contract. **"Our information is that a number of these boats were actually deployed in combat operations around Basra" against American troops during fighting in Iraq,"** Michael Dougherty, of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security, said Wednesday. **American authorities said the Yakous were aware that their dealings with Hussein's government violated American laws.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/10/16/international/middleeast/16ARMS.html?th>

28. *October 16, Washington Post* — **U.S. contractors are targets overseas.** The deaths of three DynCorp employees in a bombing in the Gaza Strip Wednesday, October 15, demonstrated the persistent danger faced by U.S. contract employees working around the world. **The U.S. government increasingly relies on civilians to perform jobs once reserved for the military,** including feeding soldiers, delivering mail, training Iraq's new armed forces and providing security for foreign leaders. "The more they accompany troops abroad, the more they are likely to encounter dangerous situations," said Deborah Avant, a political scientist at George Washington University and an expert on private military companies. **"To the extent that they are seen as part of the U.S. military apparatus they would be more likely to be viewed as legitimate targets." Iraq is among the most dangerous environments contractors have encountered. The Brookings Institution estimated that there is one contractor in the country for every 10 soldiers.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A32125-2003Oct 15.html>

29. *October 16, The Christian Science Monitor* — **Malaysian urges Muslims to unite against Jews. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday, October 16, said that "Jews rule the world by proxy" and the world's 1.3 billion Muslims should unite, using nonviolent means for a "final victory."** His speech at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit, which he was hosting, drew criticism from Jewish leaders, who warned it could spark more violence against Jews. Mahathir — known for his outspoken, anti-Western rhetoric — criticized what he described as Jewish domination of the world and Muslim nations' inability to adequately respond to it. Malaysia, a democratic nation that has a large non-Muslim population and does not enforce strict Islamic law, has long been a critic of Israel's occupation

of Palestinian territories and of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Source: <http://csmonitor.com/newsinbrief/brieflies.html#WORLD11:32:5>

30. *October 16, Associated Press* — **North Korea hints it may test nuclear weapons. North Korea hinted Thursday that it may test a nuclear weapon. The communist state, in comments attributed to a spokesman for its Foreign Ministry, said it would "open its nuclear deterrent to the public as a physical force."** The remarks from Pyongyang were the strongest indication yet that North Korea, already suspected of building more bombs to add to its estimated arsenal of one or two bombs, would test a weapon to prove itself a nuclear power. In early October, North Korea said it completed extracting plutonium from its 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods and is using the material to build nuclear bombs. **When reprocessed, North Korea's pool of rods can yield enough plutonium to make four or five more bombs in a matter of months. More bombs could allow North Korea to test one.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=516&ncid=516&e=4&u=/ap/20031016/ap_on_re_as/nkorea_nuclear

31. *October 16, The Yomiuri Shimbun* — **APEC to pledge action over WMD, missiles. A draft of a declaration to be issued at a summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Bangkok, that starts Monday, includes references to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and missiles, sources said Thursday.** The declaration will call for strengthened international controls on WMD and missiles used to carry WMD. The move reportedly has been prompted by APEC leaders' concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons development and missile exports. **The draft states that cross-border terrorism and proliferation of WMD are direct and serious threats to APEC's vision of free and open economic activity.** According to the sources, the draft also refers to trade controls in relation to the prevention of WMD proliferation under international law because North Korea has developed roundabout routes via third countries, such as Thailand, to procure WMD materials. **At the upcoming APEC summit meeting, more weight will be placed on security issues because of the Iraq war and recent terrorist incidents in Southeast Asia.**

Source: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/newse/20031017wo42.htm>

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